On the basis of the per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey Organisation's 61st Round (2004-2005) Report and the Population Projections given by the office of the Registrar General of India, the requirement of foodgrains, including seed, feed and wastage is estimated at 180.05 million tonnes in 2005-06 and 182.65 million tonnes in 2006-07.

(c) With the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act for deregulation of the marketing system, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers. If the market price is more than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market. As a result, the prices in the market during the harvesting season also are ruling above the MSP and benefiting the farmers.

As per the latest information available large private companies such as Cargill, ITC, Adani Enterprises, Britania, Delhi Flour Mills, Agricore, Sri Nangali Agro and AWB India together have declared purchase of around 18.15 lakh tonnes of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season 2007-08.

National Guarantee Act

29. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Guarantee Act is under active consideration of Government; and

(b) whether it would be possible to provide 100 per cent crop insurance coverage to farmers in view of suicides of farmers by this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Probably, Hon'ble Member has referred to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) which was enacted on 7.9.2005. It does not provide Crop Insurance coverage to farmers.

Integrated and holistic approach for better yields

30. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that agriculture sector needs an integrated and holistic approach and not a fragmented one;

(b) whether Government are also aware that there are gaps between actual yields and the yields that are technologically feasible as these yields increase potential which vary from 40 per cent and 100 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken at the Central and State level to make a visible impact in the next three to four years in the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are gaps between actual yield obtained and that are technologically feasible. The yield increase potential varies from crop to crop. In the recently conducted frontline demonstrations on pulses, oilseeds, rice, wheat and cotton where different